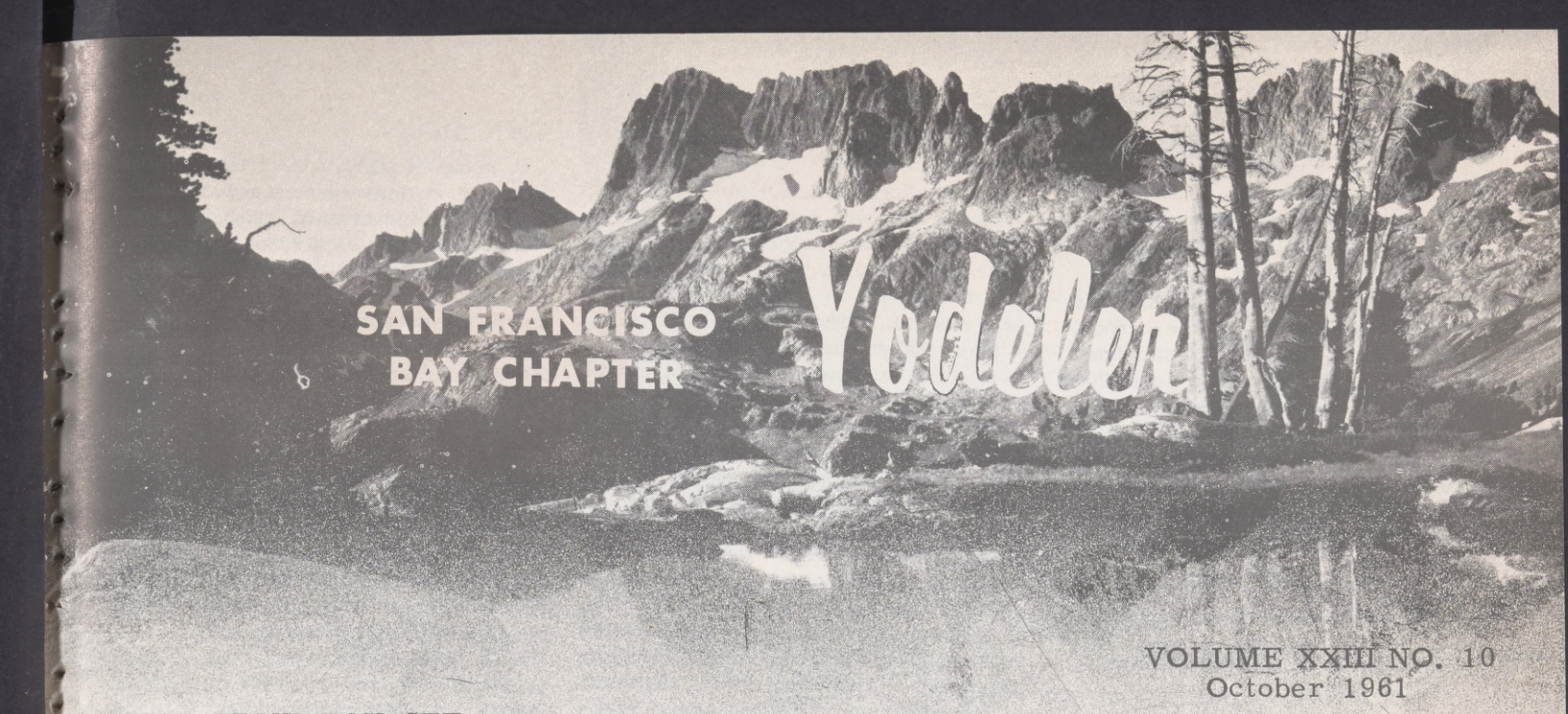

SAN FRANCISCO BAY CHAPTER

Yodeler

VOLUME XXIII NO. 10
October 1961

THE VIEW YOU SEE IS NOT YOUR OWN

Exactly one hundred years ago the members of the first Geological Survey of California were camped on the north side of Mount Diablo, and William H. Brewer wrote in his diary. "Tuesday September 24 (1861) we ascended it. It was the easiest mountain to climb we have yet had. A pretty good trail runs to the top so we could ride our mules most of the way . . . The view from the top was remarkably fine . . ."

The view is still remarkably fine, and the slopes of the mountain have hardly changed since Brewer's day. The visitor still sees unspoiled green and tawny foothills and wooded canyons, and he is apt to assume that these will always remain natural and beautiful because Mt. Diablo is now a State Park.

He is due for a rude awakening. Most of the mountainside is privately owned and very soon now the housing developments will push their way up the hills and show the pathetically small area protected by the Park.

Additions are urgently needed: North Peak (which Brewer thought fine enough to be named Mt. King), Deer Flat, Curry Canyon, Pine Canyon (where many Yodelereaders learned rock climbing), are some of the choice areas. All of them are now being studied by an enthusiastic group in Contra Costa County, organized by Hulot Hornbeck, which will work as a special committee of the Bay Chapter Conservation Committee to bring the needs of Mt. Diablo State Park before the public and the State Park officials.

The Sierra Club asked the State Park Commission, at its meeting on Sept. 15th, to consider the need for acquisition on the mountain, and was told once again that no money was available for Diablo, which is not mentioned in the list of acquisitions proposed for the State Park system during 1962. The well worn story of the diversion

CONTINUED PAGE 2

CHAPTER DAY ON SLOPES OF MT. TALMAPAIS

The welcome mat is out! All the Bay Chapter sections and committees have pooled their efforts to welcome you, your family and friends to a new kind of Chapter Day and Open House.

The date: Sunday, October 8. The place, West Point Inn. This is on the southern slope of Mt. Tamalpais, easily accessible by trail or car.

The club-sponsored hike to be led by Lillian Hansen will leave Mountain Home at 9:30 a.m. for a leisurely trip to the Inn. Other suggested trails: from Boot Jack campground, Mountain Theater, or top of Tam.

For those who would like to come but would find the trail travel too difficult, the road to the Inn from the top of the mountain ridge is passable though rocky and narrow. When you get to the Inn, please turn your car around to head uphill.

Limited overnight accommodations are available for those who want to come up Saturday. Get in touch with Wanda Goody, SK 1-4295, the West Point hostess, for details.

THE PROGRAM

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.—Registration; a small donation is requested to cover ground fees.

10 a.m. to 4 p.m.—Displays of Chapter Sections and Committees. Movies—schedule to be posted at registration desk.

Lunch—Bring picnic; coffee, tea, and lemonade will be served, 15¢.

2 p.m.—Chapter meeting; introduction of Chapter officers; Section and Committee reports; introduction of the candidates for 1962; Executive Committee.

KNAPSACK

THE TEHIPITE VALLEY:

Little-Known Scenic Gem

The narrow, little-used trail we had been following from Crown Valley reaches the Tehipite Gorge about a mile beyond Gnat Meadow in Kings Canyon National Park. We knew we could expect to see Tehipite Valley at any moment and had a vivid mental picture of it from reading. Even so we were overwhelmed upon turning a corner to find it staring us full in the face.

We knapsackers looked down cliffs 3,200 feet to the valley floor where the middle fork of the Kings River could be seen flowing through pine and broadleaf forest. The river at this point has forged several channels and left islands and bars in its wake. Here the Monarch Divide presents an imposing face of granite spurs and spike turrets which frown at campers late in the day, but at noon shine like polished chrome.

Beyond Tehipite Dome the canyon cliffs become more vertical and the valley narrows; nonetheless we could trace the course of the river for miles east toward the crest peaks. Twenty-four of us were struck by the remarkable beauty of this place and wondered why it is so rarely visited by our contemporaries and is so seldom discussed.

Frank Dusy's trail makes sixty switchbacks from rim to the floor of Tehipite Valley. At first each tack is gentle and we walk on a treadmill, making little progress . . .so it seems. But when we drop below the conifers and get into oak and laurel the trail steepens and becomes rocky. Neither lug soles nor sneakers were enough to prevent an occasional friction arrest on the seat of the pants.

The valley has a forgotten look possibly because leaves and needles and rising water cover up trail wear. Fallen wood, a derelict cabin of ancient vintage, and assorted

CONT. PG. 3 COL. 2

Sierra Club Yodeler

A publication of the San Francisco Bay Chapter. Address all communications to Yodeleditor, 1050 Mills Tower, San Francisco 4

For club members only, classified ads (private transactions), will be accepted at the rate of 35¢ per line of printed copy. The 'enterprise' rate is 70¢ per line. Persons submitting ads may compute their copy on the basis of approximately 7 words per line. Check must accompany copy. Commercial advertising is solicited. Please request rate card.

YODELER STAFF
Peter Whitney, Editor

Ted Allemann Frances Whitney
Cicely Christy

Subscription $2.00 per year

Next deadline: Oct. 23
Editorial Work Night: Oct. 23

Volume XXIII, No. 10 Oct. 1961

CONSERVATION (Cont.)

of funds from Mt. Diablo to Frank's tract, (see August Yodeler) was repeated by Park officials, and no other comment was offered.

Money, without which there will be no additions, might come from several sources; from special legislation, as in the case of Tamalpais; by diversion of funds from another project, as Frank's tract was enriched at Mt. Diablo's expense; through the proposed bond issue for Parks, on which the State seems to be pinning all hopes of new acquisitions. In any case an informed and enthusiastic public is a necessity and is the first objective of the new Mt. Diablo Committee. C.M.C.

ANGELES CHAPTER BANQUET

The Angeles Chapter invites you to share in its Fiftieth Anniversary Banquet, Oct. 28 at the Los Angeles Breakfast Club. Speaker will be Willi Unsoeld, who needs no introduction to Bay Chapter members; he will describe the 1960 Masherbrum Expedition.

An added attraction is an exhibit of amateur Sierra Club oils, watercolors, sculpture, sketches and photographs.

For the banquet, send $4.50 per head to Ed and Edna Quigley, 1473 E. Chevy Chase Dr., Glendale 6, before Oct. 18; add .50 more after that date.

FOR LEASE: Squaw Valley Chalet. Delightful, comfortable, charming! One year minimum term. Reasonable. Write Joe Brower, Birmens dorferstr. 16, Uitikon a/A Zurich, Switzerland.

CONSERVATION NEWS FROM MARIN COUNTY

Senator Engle's bill (S.476) on Point Reyes National Seashore has passed the Senate, and in the House the subcommittee hearings have been completed. Action in the House can be carried on from this point in the next session. Difficulties are expected but a major effort must be made, for the bill must pass the House before it adjourns a year from now or we start all over again. California Congressmen have helped us generously, but they will have to be backed up by a national understanding of the need for these Seashores, to be achieved through film, bulletin and personal letters to friends in other states.

A letter from Congressman Clem Miller tells us that the bill was amended to make it possible to retain all the dairy ranches in the hands of owners provided there is an agreement to keep the pastoral character of the landscape. This removes an argument which Marin County opponents have been using against the project. No rancher need be dispossessed. No taxes need be lost. The Vedanta Society Retreat will also remain in private ownership. As to the subdivisions, the bill provides a cut-off date. The 17 houses built before Sept. 1959 may stay, others are subject to purchase and removal by the National Park Service. Subdivisions now planned contain 576 lots of which about 80 have been sold. Clem Miller's letter reminds Marin County officials that the U.S. government expects to spend $22,000,000 around Point Reyes National Seashore during the first five years.

On Tamalpais, the Marin Water District is studying the possibility of selling parcels of its land, 3000 acres in all, around the edges of the north, east and south side of the mountain. Much information about this is needed, for trails, as well as important natural areas, might be affected. The threat has increased interest in a Regional Park system for Marin County, based on a county-wide tax rate. A nickel per $100 assessed valuation would really buy parks.

The State Park Commission was asked if there was nomey remaining from the funds earmarked for Tamalpais, and heard from the Dept. of Beaches and Parks that the money is almost used up. $750,000 has been spent, or is earmarked for purchases, or tied up while condemnation suits are proceeding, leaving about $300,000 which is reserved pending results of negotiations with various owners of land.

C.M.C.

FREE SAMPLE

. . . of Northwestern Mutual's unique estate planning is yours, without obligation. Simply call me.

DON GOLDEN, *Insurance*
OAKLAND PHONE: OLYMPIC 3-6617

CAN DO

A group of forty, ages 6 to 77, bagged five tons of flattened cans and about three cubic yards of crushed glass in the Big Pine Lakes Basin in an August week. Some of the loveliest campsites in the area were so littered as to be uninhabitable. Glass and tin glittered in the sun.

That a group of determined people could move such a volume of debris in such a short time shows how easily individuals COULD take care of their OWN used cans, bottles and foil. Fred Eisler, the trip leader, posted signs at many of the sites with the "You Can Take It With You" motto. He reported that the previous can trips into other areas were so effective that the National Forest and Park officials in certain areas have made the carry-out policy part of their procedure.

As a finale to a week of work, the trip concluded with a tour of the North Palisade Glacier conducted by guides Larry Williams and John Sharsmith.

Anita Suran

FIRST AID COURSE

If you are interested in taking a Red Cross First Aid certificate course—taught by and for Sierra Club people, call Francis Walcott in San Francisco or Frank Williams in the East Bay.

Mountaineering Section

HARVEST RIVER TOURING BOAT

- An extremely strong and easy-to-handle 25-pound fiberglass kayak, 13 ft. long and 28 inches wide.
- The contoured fiberglass seat, quickly removed without tools, forms a watertight cockpit which makes boat practically unsinkable and also keeps gear, stored in the ends, dry.
- Spraycover available.
- Boat is of unit construction, without any framework.
- Many color combinations available.
- Price $175 and up.

O. AND W. HARVEST 1852 9th Street
Alameda LA 3-0830

WATERPROOF MAPS

Laminate them in mylar for lifelong wear and indestructible brilliance.
GS quadrangles, 75¢ each
(Not including map) Dissected $1.15.
I also will dry-mount your prize photos, documents.
PETER D. WHITNEY
1544 LaLoma, Berkeley TH 8-5020

PUPPIES: Advance reservations being taken for a litter that's bound to be loaded with charm and intelligence like their mother. Medium-sized spanteroodles (?) $5 apiece. To be weaned by Thanksgiving. Peter or Frances Whitney, TH 8-5020.

ROCK CLIMBING NEWS

On the Labor Day weekend the Rock Climbing section base-camped at the club area in Tuolumne Meadows. Saturday found a group on Cathedral Peak doing the usual climbs plus Eicorn's Pinnacle. Jack Davis almost jammed another rappel rope.

The remaining, larger part of the group concentrated on the north face of Unicorn Peak. I am sure that old Unicorn has never had so much iron pounded into it at one time. In general, the climb is quite easy with the exception of the last pitch.

The following day, we went to work on the Mt. Dana glacier. The ice was in perfect condition for climbing. After two mild winters and long summers, the snow covering on the glacier was completely gone leaving nothing but bare glacial ice. A large bulge in the middle of the glacier was full of small crevasses and ice blocks. This provided us with hours of delightful climbing.

On Monday, a few eager souls worked on the 5th class routes of Lembert Dome.

At the local climb at Indian Rock on September 10, a large group of new climbers was received by leaders Len Larson, Peter Harding, and Ed Morse. This climb, the first of the new fall schedule, was one of a series of progressive instructional sessions. See the schedule for full details of this program. In addition, this year, the R.C.S. is also offering a concentrated course of advanced rock climbing starting November 4. See schedule. Carl Weisner

SCHEDULE SUPPLEMENT

OCTOBER 8: CHAPTER DAY. A new version of this festival at West Point Inn on the slopes of Tam. See Page 1.

OCTOBER 18: MOUNTAINEERING DISCUSSION GROUP (change from Schedule) For Rex Smith, substitute Larry Epperson, TH 5-9195

CHRISTMAS PARTY: IMPORTANT ADDENDUM

Omitted from the Schedule was the important fact that Christmas Party tickets are $3.00 per person.

Where Experts Come to Buy
Join this 25-year-old sportsmen's cooperative whose members include mountaineers, professional guides, campers, skiers, skin divers, sportsmen and scout leaders. Domestic and imported articles carefully screened and tested before they are offered. You enjoy low co-op prices and profit-sharing plan. Write for catalog.
Recreational Equipment Inc.
Dept. YJL • 523 Pike St. • Seattle 1, Wash.

Tehipite Valley (Cont. from page 1)

bones added to this image. We found no easy ford along the river though the water was relatively low in late August. It was plain by the scoured banks that the mighty Kings will send down a head of water easily fifteen feet higher than the level we encountered. Tehipite's walls show water marks at frequent intervals, indicating that the valley can be an awesome place, if not a vicious one, in a heavy thaw.

Commanding feature of the valley is Tehipite Dome, just as much a magnificent sentinel as Half Dome is to Yosemite. It rises 3,500 feet above the floor, is polished and deeply sculptured. Its face is one of constant change through the day as sun and shadow play upon it. Along the outer edges of the valley as the canyon narrows upstream one finds room-sized rocks and intriguing oak grottos. Among these boulders is Painted Rock containing color markings which are believed to stem from Indian visitation to the area. Our comfortable camp in a pine grove beside the water gave us picture window views of Silver Spray Falls on one hand, and on the other, poetic Gorge of Despair.

Tehipite Valley has a few bad features too; we must be fair! As a visitor you'll want to keep a wary eye out for rattlesnakes. This is no idle threat. Our party met two in immediate camp and another while scrambling up a talus slope adjacent to Silver Spray Falls. And at this 4,000 foot elevation there is poison oak to contend with. Gnats are a bother in the thicker part of the forest where the breezes are barred. If you choose to climb out of Tehipite Valley, rather than walk up-river to Simpson Meadow you'll find it rough. A hearty breakfast is a vital prerequisite. Fortunately though, the established trail is shaded.

Later in our travels most of the party climbed Tehipite Dome from the Tunemah Trail, starting at the 7,600 foot level due south of Kettle Dome . . . a three mile round trip. The views from the top magnify all that has been said here before about the grand panorama of the Tehipite Gorge and the turreted corrugations of the Monarch Divide. Tehipite Dome is a walk-up except for a key pitch where there is exposure, and where a rope is desirable.

Tehipite Valley is a rare scenic resource, and it is puzzling but gratifying that it has remained isolated this long. But it lies under a sword of Damocles — the valley's status as a reservoir withhold. The writer spent much of an afternoon exploring about the groves, beaches and byways of the valley trying to capture some part of his feelings in the limited scope of a Retina camera. This reservoir probability kept coming to mind, and I think that is why the valley has a haunting quality about it.

Jim Watters

Trip Reports

Cathedral Range, July 8, 1961. Nine climbed to the top of the summit block on Cathedral Peak, and some of the less experienced mountaineers were given the opportunity to lead the summit pitch. After the climb, one person became separated from the main group near the base of the peak. This was the cause of considerable anxiety and useless searching. The moral of this trip is that a party should remain together AFTER as well as during a climb.

Ice Climbing Training - Mt. Dana Glacier, August 19-20, 1961. Twelve persons participated in climbing with axe and crampons, rope management and step-chopping, and tried out belays, piton and bollard anchors for rappels, and crevasse rescue technique. Some people were surprised (or should we say "shook?" to find snow-covered crevasses on Dana Glacier. The rule, "ROPE UP on the snow-covered part of a glacier", was taken to heart.

Sawtooth Ridge - September 16-17. With summer not yet over, this was the first snow-camping trip of the season. (Any challengers?) Although no climbing was possible, wind, rain and several inches of snow at 10,000 feet gave mountaineers a taste of what might be expected on trips outside the Sierra.

Mountaineering Section

SIERRA CLUB
1050 MILLS TOWER
SAN FRANCISCO

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
OAKLAND, CALIF.
PERMIT 1929

SIERRA CLUB LIBRARY
1050 MILLS TOWER
SAN FRANCISCO 4 CALIF

OUR NIGHT TO HOWL

The night of the ghouls and goblins approaches. The Sierra Club, along with the Garfield Folk Dancers, will haunt Armstrong Redwoods State Park the weekend of October 28-29.

Just $2.50 per person (plus a nominal car camping fee) covers:

* A barbecue steak dinner with trimmings, at 5 p.m. sharp, in Armstrong Grove, Saturday the 28th (complete with wine, yet!)
* Folk dance party, after dinner, in Guerneville. Your ticket stub for admission.
* Overnight camping at Armstrong Grove.
* Sunday activities to be planned on the spot. May include an organized wine tour and/or a beach party.

Folk dancing will be under the able leadership of Edna Spalding, the genial gal who has the knack of lightening the feet of even those who've never studied the art. Edna is Garfield's Monday night instructor. Squares will be included on the program - we hope with Jack Sudall calling a few. With Edna and Jack setting the pace, the dance can't help but be gay.

Ticket sales are limited to 150 - so act now. Get your tickets from Elizabeth Perry, 3040 Champion Street, Oakland 2 (AN 1-6441). As you may know from sad experience, this annual Hallowe'en Party is always a sell-out. Don't be among the disappointed - get "with it" and send Liz a check. Tickets on sale until 7 p.m. October 25 if any are left.

Driving directions: Allow at least 2 hours for the trip. From Guerneville follow highway signs 2 miles to Armstrong Redwoods State Park.

Transportation Coordinator: Ann Adams, 2534 Hillegass Ave., Berkeley, TH 5-8050.

Don't forget to bring: (1) Your ticket, (2) Tableware for Saturday dinner, plate, cups, silverware, (3) Breakfast and lunch for Sunday, (4) Sleeping bag, and (5) A full skirt, girls!

See you there!

PACIFIC IMPORTS
Custom hand-tailored clothing from Hong Kong
Suits, coats, jackets, or slacks for men and women, of English Worsted Harris Tweed, Mohair, wool, cashmere or silk.
Worsteds from $50; Cashmere coats from $59.50. Italian silk and wool from $70. Prices include postage and duty. Written guarantee.
Showings alternate Saturdays each month, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m., 2 locations:
Berkeley - 1st & 3rd Saturdays
2288 Fulton near Bancroft
Palo Alto - 2nd & 4th Saturdays
Rickey's Tower, Room T100
Run by Berkeley Faculty and Sierra Club People
TOM ELLIOTT GA 1-8823

MOUNTAINEERING NOTES

Why the Fuss Over Hard Hats?

We have had no trouble convincing people that they should rope up for protection when climbing becomes exposed. This makes good sense. Yet there is considerable reluctance, even resistance, on the part of climbers to the wearing of hard hats for protection, even on mountains having a reputation for loose rock. Why? The Safety Committee of the American Alpine Club reports that falling rock has been the third largest cause of mountaineering accidents in recent years. Apparently no one is convinced. Industrial workers, who are required to wear hard hats, never give their headgear a second thought. Hard hats are like shoes to them. We can't require you mountaineers to wear hard hats, so we are trying to sell you on the idea.

Head injuries are serious. Mountaineers can deal with almost any other injury if required, but in the event of a blow on the head, it is difficult to ascertain the extent of internal damage. If there is any indication of concussion, the victim probably must be carried out. (What are the symptoms of a concussion? Do you carry a check list in your first aid kit?) This is an extreme hardship for a climbing party.

To lessen the possibility of a head injury, wear a hard hat. The fiberglass hard hat of the industrial type is sold by mountaineering equipment suppliers, for $7.00 or less—you can consider this insurance expense. It weighs about 14 ounces. If you are a weight-conscious mountaineer, remember you can always carry a hard hat on your head. You'll find that is will protect you from the sun, and makes an excellent rain hat, too!

Take your hard hat on all climbs where there is any possibility of loose rock. Wear your hard hat when you need it.

14 oz. of protection may be worth a whole life.

Bill Engs

FOR SALE: 11'6" Sailboat - Cloudburst. Cotton sail. Asking $250.00. Call Phil Norgaard, OL 5-4698.

MOUNTAIN ACCIDENT REPORT

The 1961 American Alpine Club Accident Report is now in the hands of the two climbing section Chairmen (Rock Climbing and Mountaineering). Copies can be obtained while the supply lasts.

Forty-seven accidents are reported, involving 23 deaths. Ten of the accidents occurred in California, which matched the records of Colorado and Washington. Wyoming reported eight.

The largest number of accidents occurred on rock. Descending appears to be somewhat more hazardous than ascending. It may be pointed out that although the report attempts to cover all accidents occurring in the U.S., many are unreported. This report does not attempt to record long falls that are successfully held and usually involve no injury.

It is also interesting that the Safety Committee of the AAC is looking for examples of the successful use of the hard hat.

The report also mentions an unusual hazard—the impermeable tarp that is used to cover a sleeping bag. In this case the tarp froze to the ice, completely sealing in the sleeping person, with the result unconsciousness and death due to lowered oxygen supply. This is the second incident involving this problem.

Accidents occurring in 1961 should be reported to the Mountaineering Committee of the Sierra Club, who will send them along to the Alpine Club in New York.

R. C. Houston

NATURAL SCIENCE SLIDE SHOWS FOR LOAN

Sierra Club slide shows are available on loan from the Angeles Chapter's Natural Science Section, on payment of a $1.00 service charge which goes toward the handling and upkeep.

Borrowers should get in touch with Miss Betty Southam, 500 1/2 Mound Ave., South Pasadena, or Mrs. Walter R. Engle, 3200 Montezuma Ave., Alhambra. Normal loan period is one week.

Available shows are "Desert," "Chaparral," and "Woodwardia Fire."